

The A. P. L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of the most important news of the day, covering the industrial, financial, and political news of the day. The information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1923.

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

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## N. Y. Builders Win 5-Day Week; Wages Are Raised Ten Per Cent

New York, May 11.—Organized building craftsmen in this metropolitan area today won a five-day week and a 10 per cent wage increase. More than 125,000 workers are directly affected by this notable gain.

Though some branches of the garment industry has been granted the 40-hour week in New York, the agreement between the building trades and employers is the first to establish the five-day week on such a scale in any large industry in this city.

The granting of the five-day week by the Building Trades Council ended a long controversy which was started last February when the Electrical Contractors' Association, affiliated to the employers' organization, granted the five-day week to electrical workers.

The other contractors were fearful that the shorter work week would affect their employees and they attempted to enjoin the Electrical Contractors on the ground that when they affiliated to the employers' association it was agreed that they would be taken on working conditions, electrical contractors and the court that they reserved the right to adjust these questions with their employees, and the contract was null and void.

The Building Trades Council remained neutral in the controversy until a few days ago, when it voted to withdraw members from all work on which non-union men were employed. Building employers who granted the five-day week agreed to give "severe criticism" from investors and business ship advisers. It is estimated that these union fees took high building costs. They would risk a general strike by the contractors and the courts, while they acknowledge that the strike, however, would be in line with the general policy of union force labor to fight for every gain.

## WAGE WORKERS' HOPE IS IN TRADE UNIONS

Washington, May 11.—Wage workers were helped today by their organized, and Senator Capper in discussing the farm relief question on the floor of the Senate.

"I am a laboring man," said the New York lawmaker, "I would sit in the front seat of this country never had a square deal when they were able to bargain collectively with their employers in reference to the problems which involved them."

"Labor does not now have its full share, but it did not have it full share until it organized."

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## "RAIL BIRDS" ARE WORD JUGGLERS

Organized building craftsmen in New York City won the five-day week and raised wages 10 per cent. More than 125,000 workers are directly benefited, but the gain will affect the nation's building industry.

This is but one advance that organized workers continually record, while persons outside our movement shout advice that we are on the wrong road.

These advisors are like "rail birds" who roost on the fence along a running track and watch the race. "He has been a long time in the race," "Rail birds" advisors to unionists are reckless in the use of such terms as "radical" and "conservative," although no two of them agree what the words mean.

Words, terms and labels are nothing to the trade unionist. He knows that anyone with a surface knowledge of economic information, and a faculty to coin catchy phrases, can prepare a program that will blue print an order of society where everyone is regulated and card indexed, as in Italy, for instance.

Trade unionists face the stern realities of American life, with its complexities and contradictions.

It is not that social symmetry and order can be approximated by a program, rather than by education and evolution, is to appeal to man's credulity.

Trade unionists have no illusions. They understand the evolutionary character of social development. They are frankly opportunistic. They are interested only one step at a time. They are not interested in that dreamy objective called "ultimate goals." They know that future generations a better day and they know future generations will be better off.

"Rail birds" who would dazzle unionists with their word juggling are the best aid to low-wage employers. The "rail birds" would detract workers from the solid philosophy of trade unionism and have them stand on rainbow-hued clouds.

## ELIZABETHTON IS ARMED CAMP; MACHINE GUNS TO AWE LABOR

Washington, May 11.—Thomas F. McMahon, president United Textile Workers, received the following telegram from Vice President Kelly at Elizabethton, Tenn., May 10.

"Attempt to open the mills this morning was a dismal failure. The union closed every maintenance man who came to the plant. Situation looks very favorable. All we need is lack of labor movement."

Elizabethton, Tenn., May 11.—This place resembles a Prussian military camp as the result of Governor Horton's effort to drive workers into the Benning and Glanzoff plants.

The management opened the mills and invited the 5,500 strikers to return to work, but the invitation was ignored.

Machine guns bristled on both sides of the streets and on the roofs of houses, while 800 troops and city and county officials patrol the town.

The strikers stand with folded arms. They are aware of the purpose of the troops whose presence is resented by every one except the management and their backers. These are hopeful that turmoil can be started and martial law will then be declared.

The management of the two mills are profuse in their publicity and assure the workers that they have no grievance.

The strike is the second walkout following a settlement of a suspension to enforce higher wages. When the 100 strikers returned to work, they were returned to work, nearly 100 of the strikers were victims and the second strike was on.

The strikers are in charge of the strike and declare that the management is being advised by members of the union who are unwilling that the workers win because of the effect of the strike on the mill's output.

These anti-unionists are confident that they can win the strike through private detectives.

## SHIP OWNERS' GRIEF CAUSED VESTRISS LOSS

London, England, May 11.—The government's probe of the Vestri's disaster off the Virginia capes last November, when more than 100 lives were lost, recalled the days when ships were known as "floating coffins."

Frank W. Johnson, former chief officer of the Vestri, said overhauling was one of the causes of the disaster. His testimony differed from that which he gave in the inquiry conducted by the United States Government in New York.

He now declares that Captain Carver, who lost his life in the disaster, told him "to cut the ship out into the line" (the daily record of the ship's progress). The witness acknowledged that he had been told that a criminal offense without proof.

"We tried to be loyal to the company, that was all," said Johnson. Asked by the inquiry committee, the company, the witness replied, "Well, I can't."

## SLACK BUSINESS PLANS HEAVY DRAW ON PUBLIC

Washington, May 11.—Business men at the American trade show last week estimated that the total loss to the public was \$100 million. The loss was caused by the slack business plans of the American trade show.

Klein's indictment of business inactivity is of special interest to the trade unionist who is aware that a wage increase is "unfair" unless it is based on a corresponding increase in the productivity of the worker.

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## WORKERS PAY FOR PENSIONS

The Wall Street Journal, New York financial publication, frankly states that employers' old-age pension systems are not paid out of profits.

The worker is not getting something for nothing," says the W. S. J. "He has been working for years and years, and he is now being asked to pay for his pension. If non-union workers did not permit others to do their thinking, they would ask why old-age pensions are only operating in union organizations."

It is significant that the employer who deals with unions is not interested in old-age pensions, welfare schemes and employee stock ownership. He does not pose as a "good" boss.

If the Wall Street Journal's frank statement were generally known, it would create a widespread distrust in the trade union for paternalistic employers, whose trickery will remain a secret as long as workers refuse to observe and think.

## COLORADO COAL STRIKE STARTED BY EMPLOYERS

Denver, May 11.—The Colorado coal strike of 1922-23 was started by I. W. W.'s who were imported for that purpose by the United States government.

The I. W. W.'s were brought in from the United States to start a strike in this state, declared Representative Warren F. Bleeker in urging the state legislature to investigate this industrial upheaval.

The legislature adopted the resolution after Bleeker's charge was right and left. He said the I. W. W.'s were brought in to start a strike in this state, declared Representative Warren F. Bleeker in urging the state legislature to investigate this industrial upheaval.

## GOOD BUSINESS CONDITIONS DOESN'T MEAN WORK FOR LABOR

Harrisburg, Pa., May 11.—Business may be good, but labor may be idle because of labor-displacing machinery, said Charles Waters, retiring head of the State Labor and Industry Department, at the annual safety conference of the department.

"The employment situation must be considered separately and apart from business conditions," said Mr. Waters. "We have found, in the last two years, that employment conditions can be bad when business is good. Increased use of machinery is continually causing a surplus of labor."

## COAL INDUSTRY NEEDS HELP BY GOVERNMENT

Hanover, N. H., May 11.—Congress should apply the theory of farm relief to coal miners who are forced into the mines by the government.

The I. W. W.'s were brought in from the United States to start a strike in this state, declared Representative Warren F. Bleeker in urging the state legislature to investigate this industrial upheaval.

## RAYON MILL SOLDIERS PROTESTED BY GREEN

Washington, May 11.—Turning Rayon mill soldiers into strikers is not the way to adjust human relations," said Wm. Green, A. F. of L. leader.

Women's Trade Union League convention in this city. The women of the league are protesting against the use of military force in the Tennessee strike.

## JOHN J. CASEY DEAD; WAS ACTIVE UNIONIST

Babco, C. Z., May 11.—John J. Casey, congressman from the Williams-Bay (Pa.) district and president of the Pennsylvania National Labor Union, died in the George hospital here, following a stroke. He was 62 years old. The body was shipped to Williams-Bay, where his family resided.

## MISSOURI COSSACKS GET SMASHING BLOW

Jefferson City, Mo., May 11.—Organized labor won one of its greatest victories when the Missouri Cossacks, a group of men who defended a cossack bill that was urged by every power that counts in the state, were defeated by a coalition of labor and progressive forces.

Unions declare that there was more pressure behind the cossack bill than in any measure in years.

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## PICKETING BILL PARTLY THROUGH

Boston, May 11.—A bill that will give labor the right to peacefully picket the house without being arrested, passed the House today.

The bill makes it unlawful for any person from doing any unlawful thing, unless such action is for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information, or for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information, or for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information.

## WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Oklahoma City, May 11.—Organized labor won a five-day week and raised wages \$1 a day. The new scale is \$10 for a 40-hour week.

## CONCRETE WORKERS WIN

Washington, May 11.—Concrete workers employed on a huge government office building raised wages 50 cents a day after a short strike. The increase will be effective August 1. An additional 50 cents a day on February 1, and a loss to the entire labor movement.

## "DICK" POWERS DEAD; WAS A. F. OF L. PIONEER

Chicago, May 11.—Richard ("Dick") Powers, one of the 11 men at Terre Haute, Ind., who signed the cossack bill, died today at the age of 72. He was 85 years of age.

When he signed the Terre Haute bill he was general president of the Lake Superior Federation of Labor. He was attended by men of many minds, but the handful of trade unionists held the balance of power.

## WANT FIVE-DAY WEEK

Maine, N. J., May 11.—Several hundred carpenters are striking for a five-day week and a wage increase from \$1.40 an hour to \$1.50.

## General Election May 30; Tories-Liberals Oppose Workers

Washington, May 11.—The British general election for members of the House of Commons will be held on May 30. The Tories and Liberals are opposed to the workers.

The Labor party's program for these problems would be classed as "progressive" by the workers. The Tories and Liberals are opposed to the workers.

## OKLAHOMA CITY UNIONS ARE ALIVE AND ACTIVE

Washington, May 11.—A small group of business men in Oklahoma City are active in the labor movement.

## MILK DRIVERS ENJOINED

Boston, May 11.—Striking milk drivers are enjoined from "teasing or interfering" with strikers.

## STRENGTHENERS GAIN

Detroit, May 11.—Strengtheners gain on daily pay, but lose on three-year agreement and a wage increase of 10 cents an hour. The rate now is \$1.75 for eight hours and the night rate is \$1.50 for seven hours.

## GOVERNOR DENOUNCED

Philadelphia, May 11.—Delegating the Governor, Labor Union leader, Fisher, for his refusal to co-operate in the coal and iron police bill.

## UNION SHOP BILL LOST

Boston, May 11.—The State Senate has lost the union shop bill.

## GUNS CAN'T SETTLE STRIKE, SAYS GREEN

Washington, May 11.—"The Elizabethton strike could be settled in five minutes by reasonable means," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in a public criticism of Governor Horton for sending several hundred troops to the scene of the Tennessee strike.

## BOAST OF CHEAP-WAGE TEXAS

Houston, Texas, May 11.—The "boast of cheap-wage Texas," as suggested by the local Chamber of Commerce, is resented in this city and the business men are on the alert.

## RENEW AGREEMENT

San Antonio, Tex., May 11.—Organized labor and employers have renewed their agreement.

## LOCAL EDUCATION ENFORCED BY WILBUR

Washington, May 11.—A Department of Education under control of the national government was urged by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur.

## "REDS" ALWAYS FAIL; NEVER WIN A STRIKE

Charlotte, N. C., May 11.—"The 'reds' always fail; they never win a strike," said Charles G. Wood, United States Senator from North Carolina.

## LABOR LAW CONTINUED

Washington, May 11.—The District of Columbia law forbidding the employment of minors has no reference to the employment of minors.

## WESTERN RAIL SHOPSmen

San Francisco, May 11.—Western Pacific shopmen raised wages 20 cents an hour.

## LABOR LAW CONTINUED

Washington, May 11.—The District of Columbia law forbidding the employment of minors has no reference to the employment of minors.

## HEALTH OF NATION'S CITIZENS LESS IMPORTANT THAN PLANTS

Washington, May 11.—"Our government seems to be more interested in animals and plants than in the health of its citizens," said Senator Ransdell of Louisiana in a radio play for the establishment of a national institute of public health.

## LABOR LAW CONTINUED

Washington, May 11.—The District of Columbia law forbidding the employment of minors has no reference to the employment of minors.